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AMENDMENTS

In the Specification:

Page 2, line 21, delete "Java" and insert --JAVA, or other simple, robust, dynamic, multi-threaded, general-purpose, object-oriented, platform-independent programming environment,-.

Marked-Up Version of the Specification:

(beginning at Page 2, line 11; ending at Page 2, line 22)

Accordingly, the present invention provides a tracking and control system that uses dynamic web pages generated by a server side knowledge engine. Key questions are asked of the user, then the system provides guidance in response to the user entered data. This approach provides the logic to link the needs of the user, with the appropriate guided response. With the present invention, a series of questions are presented to the user, with guidance generated as the user responds to the questions. The dynamic system can then be linked to any html or ~~Java~~ JAVA, or other simple, robust, dynamic, multi-threaded, general-purpose, object-oriented, platform-independent programming environment, based software running on the server to initiate the decision making process.

Page 3, line 13, delete "server or central website" and insert --central server--.

Page 3, line 16, delete "website" and insert -server-.

Page 3, line 20, delete "website" and insert -server-.

Page 3, line 28, delete "12" and insert -12A-12N-.

Page 3, line 29, delete "website" and insert -server-.

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Page 3, line 30, delete "website" and insert -server-.
Page 4, line 4, delete "website" and insert -server-.
Page 4, line 5, delete "website" and insert -server-.
Page 4, line 14, delete "website" and insert -server-.
Page 4, line 23, delete "website" and insert -central
server-.
Page 4, line 26, delete "website" and insert -central
server-.
Page 4, line 29, delete "website" and insert -central
server-.
Page 4, line 30, delete "website" and insert -central
server-.
Page 4, line 32, delete "website" and insert -central
server-.
Page 5, line 2, delete "website" and insert -central
server-.

Marked-Up Version of the Specification:

(beginning on Page 3, line 11, and ending at Page 5, line 20)

Continuing with Fig. 1, the structure of the system 10 allows for each user 12A-12N to independently submit a guidance request to a ~~server or central website~~ central server 14. The server can be configured to store and download text and digital images. In a preferred embodiment, the central ~~website~~ server 14 receives data not only from each user 12A-12N, but also from other sources, users, such as links to websites and additional corporate

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sources.

Continuing with Fig. 1, communication with the central website server 14 can comprise any kind of digital communication network or combination of digital communication networks. For example, the communication can be by means of a web browser, local area network (LAN), wide area network (WAN), World Wide Web, or any combination of these networks. Likewise, the users 12A-12N can be of any form so long as the inputting of information, requests for information, and retrieval of information can be communicated between each user ~~12~~ 12A-12N and the central website server 14.

The central website server 14 provides each of the users with an interface 16 that permits the user to convey requests for a recommended procedure or a guidance recommendation. The interface 16 includes an input portion and an output portion. The input portion of the interface is used to convey information from the user to the central website server 14. The output portion conveys information from the central website server 14 to the user, and is typically displayed on the monitor of the user's computer. However, the output portion is capable of being displayed on other output peripherals, like printers. Typically, the input information is generated by the user's actuation of an input peripheral, such as a mouse or a keyboard.

In the illustrated embodiment of Fig. 1, the interface 16 is provided by web pages that can be transmitted by the central website server 14 to each of the users 12A-12N. A web page can include input and/or output

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portions. The input portion of a web page allows the user to enter information relevant to the task requiring guidance, using an input peripheral, such as a mouse or keyboard. The output portion of a web page is used to provide the user with a guidance recommendation or mandate.

Although the configuration described herein refers to a website central server 14 being geographically and physically separated from each user link 12A-12N, this does not preclude integrating the website data and information from website central server 14 into each of the user sites 12A-12N to create a stand-alone system. In such a case, it is feasible to use a network to update the information from website central server 14 resident in each of the computers 12A-12N. It is also feasible to download the website central server 14 information and data to the user computer 12A-12N each time guidance is requested from the website central server 14.

Continuing with Fig. 1, and referring also to Fig. 2, during communication between the website central server 14 and the user sites 12A-12N, the user answers a series of questions. The series of questions is structured to elicit responses/input by the user to provide program information, and to respond with program guidance for the user. The structure comprises multiple questions requesting a "yes", "no", or "unknown" response from the user. The system assists the user in making decisions on a task through the asking of questions directed to the user. The questions and answers are kept current as the user moves

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through them. The questions and answer choices may be static, or dynamically generated. Questions and answers are dynamically generated by the decision tree that drives the web page, with questions possibly dependent on answers to previous questions. The questions and answers are kept current as the user moves through them. The system also assists the user by providing guidance on how to appropriately respond to the questions presented.

Page 5, line 32, delete "Excel" and insert "EXCEL".

Page 6, line 5, delete "Q0-Q10".

Page 6, line 20, delete ", such as Q0-Q10,".

Page 6, line 23, delete "Q0-Q10".

Page 7, line 3, delete "Q0-Q10".

Marked-Up Version of the Specification:

(beginning on Page 5, line 21, and ending at Page 7, line 12)

Fig. 2 illustrates an exemplary screen display 100 illustrating an exemplary series of questions. Although the drawing relates to intellectual property areas of concern, this is for purposes of description only, and is not to be considered as limiting the scope of the invention. It will be obvious to those skilled in the art that the web-based tool of the present invention is applicable to assisting a user in making decisions on a task in a variety of environments. Furthermore, the exemplary series of

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questions can be written using any software application, including but not limited to a spreadsheet application such as ~~Excel~~ EXCEL.

The exemplary intellectual property sharing assistance program illustrated herein can cover a wide range of intellectual property areas of concern. The expert system asks key questions, for example, questions ~~00-010~~ on the display screen 100. Each question elicits a response of "yes", "no", or "unknown" from the user. Rather than a flowdown logic arrangement, wherein subsequent questions are based on previous responses, in a preferred embodiment, the responses are taken in their entirety to provide guidance to the user.

In a particularly applicable environment, a user accesses the Intellectual Property Sharing Assistant, to receive guidance on whether certain potentially sensitive company information can be shared with a requester, John Doe, at a requester company, Brand X. The name of the requester is required data, and the name of the requester company is also required data. A data entry can also be made to indicate the date on which the information is requested. From there, the user receives a series of questions, ~~such as questions 00-010~~, so that the Assistant tool can acquire sufficient information to give guidance to the user.

Following each exemplary question ~~00-010~~, the user can respond with a "Yes" or a "No" answer. If the question cannot be answered "Yes" or "No", the user may

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input an "Unknown" response. With intellectual property, considerations include whether the intellectual property is proprietary, is a controlled technology within the corporate entity, is export controlled or affected, or is government security, department of defense, or otherwise classified information. Additionally, it must be determined if proprietary information and technology license agreements are in place between the corporate entities sharing the information that covers the specific technology.

Exemplary questions ~~Q0-Q10~~ elicit this information from the user, to determine if it is appropriate for the user to share information with the requester company. Furthermore, guidance information can be embedded within the questions to provide names and contact information of persons with the legal, technical and corporate information necessary to be able to provide additional guidance or information to the user. Links can also be provided relevant to certain of the questions, to assist the user in responding to the question.

In the Claims:

1. (Original) A system for providing guidance to a user in response to user entered data, the system comprising:

a server configured with a repository of task guidance questions and answer choices, said server capable of receiving information input from a user into the repository for upload to said server including responses to the questions, and allowing a user to download information from the repository including guidance on acceptable